[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

The second portion of the grant relating to election charges was made without a division.

DEMAND XI—POLICE.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,825 under Demand XI—Police, for the office establishment of Assistant Superintendents of Police. This amount, as explained in the printed notice, is made up of two sums, one of Rs. 650, which is the pay from the 1st Karkatakam, 1099, to the 25th Kanni 1100, of the disbanded men, and the second, a sum of Rs. 1,175 to be spent hereafter for the cost of their re-entertainment from the 1st Kumbham, 1100, till the end of the current financial year. It will be remembered that, at the last session—in the month of Kanni—the sum of Rs. 2,880, provided in the budget for the pay of office establishment of Assistant Superintendents for the current year, was deleted from the budget. The establishment consisting of six clerks and twelve peons was disbanded forthwith, that is, on the 25th Kanni. But these clerks and twelve peons have to be paid from the 1st Karkatakam to the 25th Kanni. Their pay amounted to Rs. 650. This sum had already become due before the provision made in the budget was deleted. There is no money to pay them now. So I am asking for that amount to be sanctioned.

The second item of Rs. 1,175 is required to restore these six clerks and twelve peons to their appointments and to pay them for the rest of the year.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I ask Mr. Pitt whether the Assistant Superintendents were conducting their duties without this establishment?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They had no establishment.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What constituted their establishment?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They themselves did the work of the establishment.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Has the work suffered in any way thereby?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I think it has.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Have they not on occasions asked Sub-Inspectors and head constables to do this work for them?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Occasionally, but a large number of their reports are seen to be in their own handwriting.

The Council deprived the establishment of their appointments in order to impress on Government their view that the Assistant Superintendents of Police themselves were unnecessary. It is unfortunate that this course was found to be necessary; but it may have been unavoidable.

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If I were now asking for funds solely in order to restore to the disbanded clerks and peons their appointments, I should no doubt get the money without any difficulty. I am sorry that I am not able to appeal to the House merely on humanitarian grounds. Hereafter perhaps we might reach an agreement to employ less ruthless methods. For to-day's discussion I accept the position that these clerks and peons are mere pawns in the game whose feelings cannot be considered. If the money which I ask for is voted, the clerks and peons will, it is true, be restored to their appointments; but, in addition, the vote will be taken to indicate that the Council acquiesces in the retention of the six Assistant Superintendents now in the Department.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I just know whether Government have recognised the fact that, by the mere disbanding of the establishment and by retaining the Assistant Superintendents at the same time, the object of the resolution of this House has been defeated?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The Government have not done that. From the conversations I had with the members of the Council on the other side after the close of the last session I found that there was no member of this House who considered that the Assistant Superintendents should *all* disappear. According to some, at least three Assistant Superintendents were absolutely necessary.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Were there only three Assistant Superintendents during this period?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I have not yet finished. Of those who were present, a large majority thought four were necessary, others seemed to think that there should be five, and I think now that in a full House a majority are in favour of six.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to a point of order as to whether the views expressed in private conversation, if any member has said so, can be referred to in the course of a speech before the House, as it implies that in the Council the members hold a different view altogether?

PRESIDENT: It would not bind the members at all.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I was merely explaining that I knew for a fact that the House did not wish all the six Assistant Superintendents to be sent away, and so the Government, in order to carry out the wishes of the House, did not need to disband all the six Assistant Superintendents. The whole of the establishment was disbanded and two vacancies that occurred almost immediately in the cadre of Assistant Superintendents were left unfilled. I believe that by doing that we have carried out the wishes of this Council.

I do not propose to weary the House with a repetition of the argument that I have used on previous occasions to show that these six Assistant Superintendents are required. Government have been reducing the number of police officers steadily since the year 1087 when there were forty-three, over and above the station-house officers.

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know from Mr. Pitt whether the Government propose to maintain these Assistant Superintendents if the establishment is not given?

PRESIDENT: It is a hypothetical question and it does not arise now.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): In the re-organisation of 1088, the number of superior police officers was reduced from forty-three to twenty-two; and then again in 1098 it was reduced to ten for no reason whatever other than to effect economy.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether he wants to make us understand that the efficiency of the Police Department has been sacrificed on the score of economy?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes. In 1100, some of my friends would further reduce it to four. Government cannot agree to any further reduction. A force of two thousand men distributed over seven thousand square miles with a fairly large power for good or for evil has to be supervised. I said, when I spoke on the subject previously, that if you wanted to take away the officers you should take away the men too.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I take it that the two vacancies that are going to arise will not be filled?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): No.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether there is no possibility of increasing the number of D. S. P.'s and doing away with the A. S. P's because I objected to the continuance of A. S. P's on the ground of duplication of work?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I thought I had already satisfied Mr. Nidiry on this point. Mr. Nidiry will agree that some 7 or 8 D. S. P.'s would be necessary. At the lowest estimate, we should lose 2 officers but all the saving would go in keeping up additional District offices. It is the officers we require and not further establishment.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether he would be satisfied with three A. S. Ps.?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): No.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanatitta*): Sir, I rise to a point of order whether Mr. Pitt is in order in making the motion considering the fact that the amount allotted for office establishment was deleted from the budget. According to Rule 53 of the Standing Orders, we can make a motion only when an amount already allotted is insufficient for the purpose.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Is it not too late for Mr. Madhava Variar to raise the point of order?

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, being a point of order, I also should like to be heard upon the question before you pronounce your decision on the subject. Mr. Madhava Variar has not assigned any reason for the point of order he has raised.

PRESIDENT: I find I have already decided this point once before. I have decided that the supplementary demand is in order.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is with respect to that aspect of the question that I craved permission to add a word in support of Mr. Variar's position. In connection with the Income tax Inspectors, I raised this identical question of order. Then there was an order from the Chair that the supplementary demands were in due form. It is that identical question that is being raised by Mr. Variar. But I would only wish to draw the attention of the President to a ruling of the Bengal High Court on a similar question upon a parallel provision relating to supplementary grants—I mean the decision of Mr. Justice Ghose in connection with Ministers' salaries. In view of that judgment of Mr. Justice Ghose, all that I wanted was to know whether the President would be in a position to revise the previous decision.

PRESIDENT: We do not know what the rules of the Bengal Legislative Council are.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): They are precisely the same.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Subsequently they have changed the rule relating to supplementary grants.

PRESIDENT: They might have. I still think that my ruling is not wrong. Well, we will now proceed to the discussion on the merits of the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The motion, as it is now before the House, is with respect to the establishment of six Assistant Superintendents. I have very great objection to allowing the motion as it stands. For it is practically asking the members of this House to eat their own words in voting out the grant as it was formerly put forward. If, therefore, Mr. Pitt is in a position to modify this motion, it may be taken into consideration as something worthy of being considered. If he is not prepared to do so, I oppose it as I opposed it on a prior occasion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai whether there is no such thing as review and whether it is not making the judge eat his own words?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes. That is practically asking a judge to eat his own words.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): When the motion for reduction was carried only on the last occasion even though it was raised twice before, did the reputation of the Council suffer on that account?

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Just a minute ago, Mr. Narayana Pillai was asking me to review my own judgment.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is quite possible. If there is any additional ground, of course, reviews are solicited from the court. It may be asking the courts to eat their own words in the particular circumstances of the case.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): You did not use that language before.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am thankful to the Deputy President for the attempt to varnish the language. I am only concerned with the substance of what I said.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I thought that the reputation of the Council was being seriously questioned when my friend said that the implication was that the Council was asked to eat its own words. I drew his attention to the fact that on two previous occasions the Council was of the same view and that on the last occasion the Council modified its earlier decision. The Council did not suffer in reputation because it modified its earlier decision. The expression "eating one's words" is not the language to be used consistent with the self-respect of the House whatever be the decision that the House arrives at.

PRESIDENT: I do not think there is much harm in it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am only concerned with the substance of the motion. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyangar is rather ticklish about the language used; but I am sorry I am not inclined to argue that point now.

When the House considered the merits of this motion on a former occasion, it came to the conclusion that there was no necessity for the establishment of the six Assistant Superintendents of Police. I am sorry to observe that very little has been adduced by Mr. Pitt in support of the present supplementary grant. On the other hand, from what I was able to gather from my friends on this side of the House, the object of the vote of the Council in disallowing the staff of the Assistant Superintendents of Police has practically been disregarded. It was not so much a motion against the staff as against the Assistant Superintendents themselves. Mr. Pitt himself has been at pains to ascertain from individual members of the House the real object of the motion. Then he understood that the Council wanted only three or at the most four Assistant Superintendents of Police. No effect appears to have been given to the wish of the Council individually or collectively.

PRESIDENT: He has just now been saying that two vacancies have been left unfilled. Effect has thus been tentatively given to the wishes of the House. Two of the vacancies have not yet been filled.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The motion that is before the House deals with six Assistant Superintendents,

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PRESIDENT: No doubt. You were making an unqualified statement. Mr. Pitt says that two of the vacancies have not been filled according to the wishes of the House and pending further consideration of the matter by the Council.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If the idea of Mr. Pitt has been to do away with two of the Assistant Superintendents, this demand for six need not have been put forward.

PRESIDENT: It is to prove deference to the wishes of the Council that this matter has been brought up for consideration.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But all the same the lingering idea seems to be this, *i. e.*, that all the six Assistant Superintendents should be there. So I am just pointing out to the Council that the original idea was to abolish the number of Assistant Superintendents through a cut in the staff. But the same still continues. Such being the case, unless the motion is modified, I am not in a position to agree to the demand just now made.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is Mr. Narayana Pillai in a position to say how it is to be modified?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very sorry I cannot undertake that responsibility since Mr. Pitt is at the head of the Department. If I am given the charge of the Department, I will be very glad to do so. (*Laughter.*) Then very probably I will consider and will be able to satisfy my friend.

PRESIDENT: I hope the day will come. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumanagad*): I shall concern myself with the substance of the motion. Mr. Pitt wants six Assistant Superintendents not only to be retained and continued, but to be perpetuated. To some extent, these difficulties arise from the circumstance that, at the time of the budget, heads of departments and others either make miscalculations or, if they do not do so, they are not able to defend their position in this Council. The result is, when mistakes of this nature arise, the departments get unworkable and consequently they come to this Council with the approval of the Government for what are called supplementary grants. Sir, supplementary grants ought to be intended for cases which cannot be forseen at the time of the preparation of the budget. Therefore I think there is considerable force in the arguments put forward by Messrs. Madhava Variar and Narayana Pillai, but I am not concerned with that now since there is an order from the Chair that the discussion should not tend in that direction. On principle, I object to these supplementary grants which are necessitated not by any extraordinary circumstances but by a miscalculation or inability to persuade the members of the Council to accept the official point of view at the budget session.

The question of Assistant Superintendents has been before this Council for the last three years and the chief objection that we on this side of the House raised against the number of the Assistant Superintendents as observed by Mr. Nidiry is this, that the Assistant Superintendents and the District Superintendents are pulling against one

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

another. I have talked on this subject on more than one occasion and my view remains the same even now. They will be able to control the work of a large number of constables if these Assistant Superintendents can be promoted to a better status and be made District Superintendents of Police. As Mr. Pitt says, there is a certain amount of importance attached to the District Superintendents of Police which is absent in the Assistant Superintendents of Police. Names are rather very important and powers also will depend upon the names which you give to those officers. Mr. Pitt observes that it is very difficult to control the constabulary by a small number of controlling officers. In 1921 he said that the number was reduced to 43 and it was again reduced to 10 and later on to 8 and so forth. Now, Sir, this is one of those instances in which Government have been disregarding non-official opinion. We have been making it plain on every occasion that these so called departmental reforms have been ill-conceived and some twelve or fifteen years ago the re-organisation of the Police Department met with a storm of disapproval at the hands of the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. I have myself spoken against that on more than one occasion. Now, Sir, if, at the time of the re-organisation of the various departments, Government disregard public opinion, if they are not prepared to take us into their confidence and obtain the benefit by our larger ideas of departmental organisation, to come forward and defend the positition that although a number of officers were unnecessarily appointed is rather unfair. The necessity for making the controlling officers as few as possible was the point urged then. With regard to the Assistant Superintendents, there is this further difficulty that the rules with regard to the appointment of officers are often disregarded. The man who rose from the ranks will be able to supervise the constabulary very well.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise now? It is hardly relevant.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I shall explain the reason. The number of Assistant Superintendents stands in a certain ratio to the capacity of the officers. Therefore, Sir, I believe it is relevant; but I shall submit to your ruling. If you pick out young and energetic men who know the country, a smaller number will be quite enough. That is the point. There is a rule that graduates will be appointed. But there are instances where the claims of graduates are not recognised. There is the further difficulty that when a man is once entertained as a clerk chances of promotion to the executive line which once existed do not exist in equal degree at the present time. The result is that even graduates who are new to the department are not able to control the force under them. So that my suggestion is that, at the time of appointing Inspectors and others, there must be a healthy rule by which competent and energetic men could be picked out and promoted to their proper place. That was done in the old Bensley period. But because he was a man who knew the people so much, at his time the Police force was very efficiently managed. I think Mr. Bensley was able to manage the force very well, and I am sure, although it is now twteny years, Mr. Pitt will find out from the files that

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Mr.Bensley was a much respected officer and his name was cherished throughout the land. Mr. Bensley was able to control the Police force with very great tact for the reason that he was here for a long time. The difficulty is that, if you have an officer even if he happens to be a European if he is able to know the intricacies of the working and if he proposes the re-organisation of the Department,it will be very good. Now if at the time of the re-organisation of 1088 the experience gained by Mr. Bensley had been availed of by the reformers all these struggles could have been avoided. There is a heritage of difficulty. There have been re-organisations and extensions.

PRESIDENT: We are concerned more with the needs of the present than with what took place twenty years ago.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am referring to that to show that, if that had been done, these difficulties of conflicts between Assistant Superintendents and District Superintendents would not have arisen. To put a man as an Assistant Superintendent and then make him an *aid-de-camp*—this is an identical phrase which I used on a former occasion—each one of them will be pretending himself to be greater than the other. I am using this argument to show that if, rather than have six Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Pitt makes the proposal that there should be some more District Superintendents, that is a different matter. I trust Mr. Pitt has got so much consideration for the difficulties of Travancore finance that he will not ask for very many officers. If it is a modest number, I think this House will be able to come to a proper conclusion and give the relief that is necessary. The point that I want Mr. Pitt to consider is the propriety of maintaining these two classes of officers. Why not every Assistant Superintendent be made a District Superintendent? That is the point upon which I wish to hear him. At the time of the previous discussion, as observed by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, it was considered that three might be enough. Mr. Pitt said that, from informal conversations with members, they would be prepared to vote for four. As for myself I am prepared to vote for three or four. But, speaking for myself, I am not bound by previous talks with the Commissioner of Police. I have not spoken to him on the matter. What I want to press on the House is that six is a very large number. We on this side of the House shall not be prepared to accept that. But considering the fact that Mr. Pitt has thrown himself heart and soul into the question and because there is a ring of sincerity in his tone, I am prepared to make an offer, a very honorable compromise, which is not derogatory either to the Police Department or to this side of the House. Instead of six he must be satisfied with three. On that ground we shall be prepared, some of us at any rate—to support the demand. Otherwise we shall be forced to oppose it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Karthkapalli*): Sir, the present motion comes as an application for review. Mr. Subba Aiyar and Mr. Krishna Aiyangar characterised it as an application for review. Mr. Pitt very effectively tells us that the House on a former

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

occasion attacked the Assistant Superintendents through the staff. He would resuscitate the Assistant Superintendents on another motion in the same channel. If it is now passed, you give all the six Assistant Superintendents. You review the original opinion and give the matter a quietus and give all the staff. Now, as for reasons for review, Mr. Pitt only gives us two. One is that he consulted certain individual members of this House and some of them were of opinion that three Assistant Superintendents might suffice. Others were of opinion that four might suffice, whilst some were of opinion that all the six were necessary. Apart from the individual views of some members of the House, this cannot be put forward as the considered view of the whole House. There may be differences of opinion amongst the individual members, but the whole House thought that all the six Assistant Superintendents were not necessary. The next argument advanced by Mr. Pitt was: "You can accept my assurance that the Department is unworkable unless you give all the six Assistant Superintendents." There, again, it is an assertion or assurance given by Mr. Pitt. That does not appear to be a sufficient reason to ask the House to reconsider the same barely four months after the question was decided by the House. I see no ground for reconsidering the resolution adopted by this House on a former occasion. There is also a preliminary objection which has been overruled by the President. On that ground, I do not wish to refer to that. On these grounds, I submit that Mr. Pitt's motion should not be allowed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Mr. Pitt is such a fine specimen of an English man and such a fine specimen of a public servant that one finds it difficult to cross swords with him. He is such a fine sportsman also that I am sure he will take my criticisms in a sportsmanlike way. I looked up the Administration Report of the Police Department for 1098 and I found from it that the Assistant Superintendents were not discharging their work properly. Crime has increased. So many things are going backward instead of going forward. I also saw the statement given by Mr. Pitt about the attendance of the Assistant Superintendents and District Superintendents in important Sessions Cases. Some of them have not attended at all. Others attended for one, two or three days respectively and the statistics about investigation of cases given was also far from satisfactory. The Administration of the Police Department is not quite what it ought to be as revealed by these statements. Crime is increasing. What is it due to? As pointed out by my friend Mr. Velu Pillai, the personal touch is absent. Police officers have to move among the people very much more than they are doing now. There is too much of paper administration. This should never be. Night beat is neglected. So many thefts are occurring in this very town; and all sorts of crimes are committed. So many policemen have been prosecuted. This is not at all creditable to the Department concerned.

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MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): What is the percentage of conviction to prosecution by private parties?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I believe it is not very creditable. I do not remember the figures. Now, in this town, under the very nose of a Police Station—the Pettah Police Station—near which I am staying, there is an arrack shop often kept open up to 12 o' clock in the night. With the absence of night beats and the facilities thus afforded to drunkards, crime is on the increase.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): If any information of such crime or theft is given to the local petty officer will he not be in a position to do the needful in the matter?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Local officers! Save me from them. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Mr. Van Ross, his point is that police officers should prevent that. It is not obligatory on the part of Mr. Hoogewerf to inform the local officers.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I say a word in answer to Mr. Van Ross's question.

PRESIDENT: Not necessary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): This is how many matters stand.

Now with regard to divided authority. I have always said that divided authority is bound to fail. There is a District Superintendent of Police and the Assistant Superintendent of Police tied on to his feet or to his tail. If one man moves, the other man also has to move. That is the evil of divided responsibility. These are the considerations which weighed with this House in voting on a previous occasion. Two thousand men have to be controlled. Till yesterday, I thought I should oppose this motion tooth and nail. But I have been seriously considering the matter and I shall just put before the House what I think to be the proper thing to be done. The Assistant Superintendents have taken the place of the Circle Inspectors. Mr. George, the late Commissioner of Police, has stated that Circle Inspectors are necessary. I am also of the same opinion. The gap between the Inspector and the District Superintendent is far too wide and the gap between the District Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent is far too close. We want an officer who would be under the proper control of the District Superintendent of Police and who would devote a great deal of time to the prevention, detection and investigation of crime. The District Superintendents give much of their time to the administration of the Division. So the proposition to have three Assistant Superintendents, I think, is not a sound one and is absolutely unsound for reasons I shall try to explain.

PRESIDENT: I thought you had explained.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): No, Sir.

Say there is one Assistant Superintendent in this Division. You have another man in the Padmanabhapuram Division. What about the Assistant Superintendent here? The work of the Assistant Superintendents and the District Superintendents is not proportionate and so

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[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

if you are going to have these officers it is very necessary that the efficiency of the Department should be maintained. Mr. Pitt just now told us that on the score of economy he was sacrificing efficiency. It is absolutely wrong. It is rather unseemly that such a Department is rather crippled.

PRESIDENT: You have the power of the purse. You must sanction the necessary money.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Mr. Pitt did a wrong thing to the country to allow that efficiency should have been sacrificed on the score of economy. So what I maintain is that, as stated by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, this motion being brought forward before this House at the first blush looks as if we are chewing, eating or swallowing our own words. People think that to-day we do something, to-morrow some other thing and something else later on. But the thing has to be seriously considered. Some people think that the Assistant Superintendents can be done away with at one stroke of the pen. That is not sound on principle. So I would ask Mr. Pitt to put forward some sort of arrangement under which we can have a better administration of the Poilce Department as suggested by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, or put the Circle Inspectors in charge of the circle or sub-division.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of detail of administration.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir, I am in full support of the motion. I want all the six Assistant Superintendents to be as they are.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): We voted against the staff of the Assistant Superintendents not because we had any quarrel with those poor men, those subordinates in the offices of the A. S P.'s. But they are merely the victims for the sins of either the Assistant Superintendents or the system which gave birth to the Assistant Superintendents or the system of the present working. My objection with regard to the Assistant Superintendents, as will be evident from my remarks on the last occasion, was not so much about the number of superior officers, but about the system under which they worked or the arrangements which have been adopted. I am one of those who think that we want, at least for the present, a sufficient number of superior officers to control the subordinate police. My knowledge of the country prompts me to say that crime is increasing everywhere and we cannot afford to lose a good and honest set of controlling officers to check the police subordinate officers. My only complaint is that the dual system under which the present Assistant Superintendents and the District Superintendents work is not very desirable and my object in voting against the staff of the Assistant Superintendents was to bring to the notice of the Commissioner and the Government the desirability of having more District Superientendents in the place of Assistant Superintendents. But the Police Commissioner, who knows the Department much better than myself and whose experience and ability

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cannot be questioned, after very careful consideration, tells the House that it is not possible and that it is more costly and so forth. I would again appeal to him and ask whether the system which I advocated could not be tried. I think, some of the members on this side of the House agreed with my view in this respect. However I am not a believer in reducing the number of superior officers at present. But I have also to make an observation in this connection. The one complaint about the present Assistant Superintendents is that they are only the old Circle Inspectors in different garbs and that the promotions to this superior grade were not properly made. If they are to be held less responsible superior Police officers, we require not men who have put in so much service but men of good character and culture. They should be superior in character and culture and not in service. If the authorities pay more attention in this direction, I am sure there will be less room for complaint from this side of the House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Nidiry whether he will favour concurrent territorial jurisdiction being given to the District Superintendents of Police and the Assistant Superintendents of Police.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): No, certainly not.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Would he have any objection to maintain these Assistant Superintendents, provided their territorial jurisdiction is different from that of the District Superintendents?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): If the Assistant Superintendents will be independent of the District Superintendents, then I have no objection.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The Excise Circle Officers and the Assistant Commissioner both were doing the same work.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I do not know that.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is Mr. Nidiry not aware that, in the Excise Department, there were two classes of officers, the Assistant Commissioners and the Circle Officers?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I have heard of that. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): If such an arrangement is made in the Police Department also, will he object to that?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I must know the relationship of the two classes of officers before I give an answer to the question.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Sir, when this question was raised in this Council for the

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[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

first time, a little over two years ago, I said that in the best interests of Police administration, and to maintain the *morale* of the Police, it was desirable to have a large number of superior officers, whether you call them Assistant Superintendents of Police or District Superintendents of Police or Circle Inspectors. I have absolutely no quarrel with any name. All that I wish is that you do require a fairly large number of superior officers in order to maintain effectively the control over the large Police force scattered all over the country, and you require at the District Head-quarters a fairly superior staff to co-ordinate the work of the Police in particular territorial areas.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I ask Mr. Krishna Aiyangar whether it is not possible to reduce the supervision to a considerable extent if proper attention is paid to the question of recruitment?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): It is a matter of detail. How best efficiency can be secured, how best and effectively supervision can be made is a matter of detail, which I for one would leave to the Government to decide. It is certainly open to the Council to suggest ways and means of securing that object. So far as the essential, ultimate object is concerned, *viz.*, the efficient and effective supervision of the subordinate Police force—so far as that question goes, there does not seem to be any difference of opinion between the members who addressed the House on his motion.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I ask Mr. Krishna Aiyangar how the number of controlling officers in Travancore compares to that in British India with respect to the extent, prevalence of crime, etc.?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I would not take my friend outside Travancore for purposes of analogy as far as the Police force is concerned. If he wants information he can have it in Travancore itself. I came from Tinnevelly. I have been for fifty years in Travancore, and I have found greater security of life and property here. You can travel in any part of Travancore absolutely unmolested. Whether it is due to the greater activity of the police officer on the side of law and order, or whether it is due to a more highly developed law-abiding sentiment of the Travancoreans (Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai: *Hear, hear.*)—whatever it is due to, I am prepared to say that the general *morale* of the Travancore Police force will compare very favourably with the *morale* of the British Police. I do not want to say anything aginst the British Police force. The District Superintendent of British India is a very responsible officer; he is doing his duty very well. So are our officers doing their duty very well. The first point with which I started is the desirability of having a large number of officers—officers who will be above temptation. Whether they fulfil the qualifications

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prescribed for their recruitment is a question that need not be discussed in this Council. While the Council's proper sphere is to suggest the minimum number of superior officers essential for the control of the Police force, it must be left to the Government and the Department to devise ways and means by which the best talent will be secured. That point being fairly agreed upon, the controversy begins from the difficulties and dangers inherent in the system of the Assistant Superintendent of Police not being directly responsible to the Commissioner of Police, but being, as it were, an attache attached to the District Superintendent. Lack of direct responsibility on the part of the Assistant Superintendent, an undesirable subservience to the dominating will of the District Superintendents whatever his own personal views may be on questions coming up for consideration—these are subjects on which some of my friends require drastic remedy; and a drastic remedy they do suggest: "Do away with the Assistant Superintendents altogether." Well, the remedy suggested, I submit, is worse than the evil. In fairness to my friends, I must concede that there is some force in the argument that this duality of control really means only control by one superior officer. I must concede, in fairness to my friends, that there is considerable force in the argument brought forward. While going so far with them, I suggest that the country is not getting the best out of the Assistant Superintendents through no fault of the latter but owing to the force of circumstances over which they have absolutely no control. That seems to be the main objection urged against the continuance of the Assistant Superintendents. While the Council cannot directly attack the continuance of the Assistant Superintendents, the Council has been allowed by you, Sir, to raise indirectly the desirability or otherwise of continuing the superior establishment, though their salary is not votable. You have been kind enough to permit the House, Sir, to lay before the Government their views on this non-votable item when discussing a grant for votable items. There has been absolute candour on both sides of this House. Mr. Pitt has said that his object in again laying this demand for the vote of the House is to get an indirect approval of this House for the continuance of the A. S. P. On this side, my friends have been candid in saying that they wanted to get rid of the Assistant Superintendents by abolishing their staff. Their objection to this particular item is not that they did not realise the necessity of providing the Assistant Superintendents with an establishment for carrying on their work, but rather it was a more important question of the necessity of a radical change in the system, *viz.*, that of continuing the Assistant Superintendents themselves. What perhaps would have weighed with some of my friends on this important question is an expression of opinion on the side of the Government as to whether the defects pointed out would be remedied by some radical change in the system of control and whether there will be a reduction in the number of Assistant Superintendents. In fairness to the Government, I must say that, while the Government respect the views of the Council, they find that the views themselves cannot be accepted seriously.

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

The proposal now before the House is only for continuing the establishment from 1st Kumbham. So far as the first part of the grant is concerned, there cannot be any opposition. But the objection of the House is as regards the second item for the grant of Rs. 1,175. The sanctioning of this expenditure will be taken by Mr. Pitt as an expression of opinion of the House on the desirability of continuing the Assistant Superintendents. That is the point on which objection seems to have been raised. No doubt Government did respect this House when Mr. Pitt replied that the two acting places of Assistant Superintendents were left unfilled. When I asked whether the idea of the Government was to leave the posts unfilled or to fill them when there were suitable officers, I understood Mr. Pitt to say that it was desirable to have all these six officers. It is really placing the House in an awkward position. The efficiency of the Police force is one of the essentials of good administration. Mr. Pitt says that he cannot do without this establishment—that he cannot do without an additional number of superior officers. On this side, some of my friends said that they would be agreeable to have the District Superintendents alone. Some others said that they would be agreeable to have three Assistant Superintendents. Some others said they would be agreeable to have four Assistant Superintendents; and some suggested that, instead of distributing the areas under three District Superintendents, the country might be split into as many areas as there were District Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents, and they might be placed in independent control, but under the common control of the Commissioner of Police. It is not so much the number, so much the question of extent; but it is apparently a widespread belief that we are not getting the best out of them. So the establishment should be rejected. If, as a direct result of it, Government are compelled to abolish the six Assistant Superintendents, it will be equally desirable for the Government to reconsider the position in the light of the actual experience of the system. As stated by my friends such a reconsideration is not to be interpreted as any exhibition of the spirit of obstructive tactics. It is an expression of opinion gained from real life. In connection with the working of the Assistant Superintendents, they had a fairly long trial; there are the evils and the evils should be remedied. But as between the evil of disbanding the whole class of Assistant Superintendents and the evil of allowing them to continue, I am for chosing the latter because there is a guarantee that, when there is a large number of superior officers in the country, the position from the standpoint of the general public, as regards law and order, would be very much more satisfactory. My friend, Mr. Hoogewerf, was giving a graphic description, in his own inimitable style and eloquent language, that crime was increasing in the country. That is an argument for increasing the number of superior officers.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not an argument for increasing efficiency?

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RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Yes, you must have effective supervision, if you want efficiency. You must get superior men—men who will be above temptation. While the realities of the situation do demand a fairly large number of superior Police officers, and though conscious of some of the defects that are inherent in the system of the Assistant Superintendents, as they are working under considerable disadvantages and are heavily handicapped, I am for the A. S. P's being continued. I support Mr. Pitt's motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask him a question. Does he agree to have District Superintendents instead of Assistant Superintendents?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): As I said, call them by any name that you will, only see that you get fairly respectable, good, and reliable men who will keep the Police force under their thumb and who will guarantee security to the public. I am not for abolishing them.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I see that I made a mistake in not speaking at greater length when moving for this grant. It is due to the House that I should give all the benefits of the experience that has been derived from the experiment made in not filling two vacancies in Trivandrum and Quilon Districts. I have been watching the effect of it. I now see that, if the posts are left unfilled, it will not be good. In each of these Districts, a head constable has been taken into the office and has been reading the station house reports and perusing the case diaries in the first instance and marking the portions that he considers the District Superintendents should read. The District Superintendents cannot read the whole of these reports and diaries for want of time. Well, I need hardly say that such a make-shift arrangement is not good. There is no responsibility and the progress of the cases under investigation is not watched by a responsible officer. Then in those two Districts, in certain cases a subordinate officer has been sent for investigation because there were no Assistant Superintendents to do the work. There have been cases in which, for want of a superior officer, I have not been able to pay proper and immediate attention to complaints. There have been cases in which an Inspector of a neighbouring station has been employed to make further enquiries because there was no Assistant Superintendent to be sent and either the complainant or the accused was dissatisfied with the investigation originally made. This amounts to setting one Inspector against another and is a very bad way of doing things. It will destroy the discipline of the Police.

This experiment of reducing the number of superior officers has been tried in the Madras Presidency in the Districts of Kurnool, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. I was once the strongest advocate of doing away with the Circle Inspectors and I said that the money spent on them might be better utilised in other ways. The Madras Government decided to experiment, on the lines we proposed, in certain Districts including

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[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

Kurnool where Mr. George, our late Commissioner, was District Superintendent of Police. I was then next door in Cuddappah. I complained to the Inspector-General because the experiment was not carried out in my District. Luckily for my reputation as a Police officer, the scheme was condemned before I was given the chance. The conditions in Cuddapah and Kurnool are practically the same. If you look into the volume of statistics published by the Madras Government, you will see that the distribution of crime is indicated by painting the criminal areas in black and leaving the places free from crime white.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know why there should be double the number of Police officers if the Circles are the same.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): When two officers are put together, one or the other may be always available.

Well, in the year 1916 when this experiment took place, Kurnool was as usual black, but Cuddapah was light grey. The only reason for the difference in the volume of crime was that Cuddapah still had a superior Police force and Kurnool had not.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the good result particularly due to the efficiency of the personal assistant Mr. Pitt had?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): No. The prevention of crime was very much better carried out in Cuddapah than in Kurnool. The same experiment was carried out here during the last few months and I think there is no need of continuing that experiment. You cannot reduce the intermediate officer any further without serious consequences.

Another question was raised by Mr. Nidiry whether we can have more Districts. At first sight it seems to be a good idea; it seems to be better to have eight or nine Districts and put one officer in charge of each District and get him do the work which a District Superintendent now does. If the same amount of work that we are now doing—the prosecutions etc.—is to be continued, a fairly large number of officers will be necessary and there will be no saving in the money; on the other hand additional expenditure is necessary. The objection taken to the duel system is that the D. S. P. and A. S. P. are apt to form different opinions. That to my mind is a great advantage since, between the two, it is likely that the proper course will be made clear.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Will there not be much saving by way of travelling expense?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Not very much.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Could not the strength of the force be reduced when there are more officers?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The District Officers have to deal with other things and not with what the subordinates do. I have no objection to have nine District Superintendents.

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MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Would not that system be more efficient?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I do not think so.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I ask Mr. Pitt whether, if there is not an intermediate officer between the D. S. P. and the Taluk Inspector for the investigation of crime, work will seriously suffer?

PRESIDENT: That is what he is saying. He says that two superior officers could put their heads together in the matter of the investigation of important crimes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will there not be some conflict of opinion between Assistant Superintendents and District Superintendents with regard to investigation of cases?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): There will be.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In the case of such conflicts, does the Commissioner expect that his orders will be taken by the District Superintendent?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the investigation wait till then?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissiner of Police*): I do not quite follow. A reference is made to me if there is a conflict of opinion; and then I decide.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My next question is whether the question of investigation should not be looked into by the man on the spot rather than by the Commissioner at the head-quarters?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): It is done by the man on the spot. But when I am asked my opinion, I give it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Would it be better to give the Assistant Superintendents greater powers or appoint more District Superintendents?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): It is a question of finance.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Independently of the question of finance, would he favour the idea of having more District Superintendents instead of having Assistant Superintendenes as at present?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I do not see how the Police Force can continue with less than 10 superior officers, having regard to the territorial jurisdiction we have here. There may be either District or Assistant Superintendents.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the territorial jurisdiction of the District Superintendent of Police in British India?

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[President.]

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*) : About 5,000 Sq. miles.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the territorial jurisdiction of the District Superintendent of Police in Travancore?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*) : About 2,500 square miles.

PRESIDENT : What about the population?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*) : About four millions. Take the case of the Ceded Districts which have together about the same population of Travancore. We have got there 30 or 40 Circle Inspectors and a District Superintendent of Police. After all, the population is the factor that has to be considered.

Mr. Hoogewerf said that, if all the Assistant Superintendents of Police were placed in charge of Divisions, he would support me. An experiment has now been made in the Kottayam District, and it has proved satisfactory; but it means that the District Superintendent of Police has to do a lot of mere routine work. If the member thinks that we should extend this to the other Districts, that could be done. I said that efficiency had been sacrificed to economy. You remember, at the time the Salaries Committee was constituted, certain retrenchments had to be effected, in order to find money to give a living wage to all ranks. The number of superior officers was therefore reduced to ten. I considered that the reduction would occasion loss of efficiency but was forced by circumstances to accept it. That is why I said that efficiency had been sacrificed to economy.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I ask Mr. Pitt, as Government member in charge of the Police Department, whether Government will be prepared to look into the whole question of recruitment to the various posts in the Police Department, and whether Government will allow that question to be considered by a competent committee of officials and non-officials.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*) : I have no objection. I would welcome it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I put the question to him, Sir, as the Government member in charge of the Police Department.

PRESIDENT : It is not a thing in regard to which you can expect an answer from him for the Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : He speaks on behalf of the Government and I am only asking him about the view of the Government in this matter.

PRESIDENT : There is a scheme which is under the examination of Government and which is nearing completion, according to which such things are going to be entrusted to a committee with which non-

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officials will be associated. This scheme has not, however, been yet examined in all its aspects.

I believe it is unnecessary that this motion should be put to the vote of the House, now that the explanations asked for have been given.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I want the motion to be voted upon.

PRESIDENT: Then I shall put it to the vote of the House.

The demand was put to the vote of the House and carried, 25 members voting *for* and 9 *against*.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XII—EDUCATION.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 37,332 under Demand XII—Education. The various items which make up this total are given in the printed lists of demands furnished to members of the Council by the Secretary.

The first item is a sum of Rs. 12,500 required for the Chemistry and Natural Science departments of H. H. the Maha Raja's College of Science for the purchase of chemicals and apparatus.

Under laboratory charges, a sum of Rs. 46,000 was sanctioned in this year's budget for the departments of Physics, Chemistry and Natural Science.

Of this sum, Rs. 8,000 was allotted to the Chemistry department and Rs. 10,000 to the Natural Science department.

It is now found that these sums are not sufficient for the work to be done this academic year and next academic year before the amounts provided in the budget for 1101 become available.

The demands for 1100 could not be accurately estimated, when the the last budget estimate was prepared, for the following reasons:—

(1) The bifurcation of the Old College made possible increased admissions in all the junior classes—Intermediate and B. A.—in the College, and many more students were admitted in all the departments of the College. The Rs. 5,000 asked for, relating to Natural Science is to meet the unforeseen demand arising from increased admissions to the Natural Science department.

(2) The sum provided for 1099 for Chemistry was Rs. 6,300 *plus* a special grant of Rs. 3,000; but, of the former sum, Rs. 1,763-6-11 and the whole of the Rs. 3,000 remained unexpended at the end of 1099, owing to delay in the execution of orders by foreign Firms and to delay in the delivery of goods by Indian Firms due to the interruption of communications caused by the floods. Of the Chemistry grant therefore Rs. 4,763-6-11 in all lapsed.

I am asking for this and a further sum, making the total Rs. 7,500 for the Chemistry department.

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